

Media Release

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTION BOOSTS THE FIGHT AGAINST THEFT & VANDALISM

PRASA is pleased with the news of another successful prosecution of a man found guilty of stealing PRASA property.

The news comes right on the heels of another conviction, early in the week (31 May 2022), of a former PRASA employee who was sentenced to 12 years direct imprisonment by the Scottburgh Regional Court in KwaZulu Natal for stealing copper cables worth an estimated R1 million.

On Thursday, 02 June 2022, the Regional Court in Pretoria sentenced Mr. Henry Ngonyama to 3 years direct imprisonment.

He was caught by PRASA security officials on 26 September 2021 at Mears Station in possession of 5 Aluminium rubber insulators.

Mr. Ngonyama pleaded guilty to the possession of the rail components and not guilty to theft. However, based on witness testimony and evidence presented in court, Mr. Ngonyama was also convicted on the theft charge.

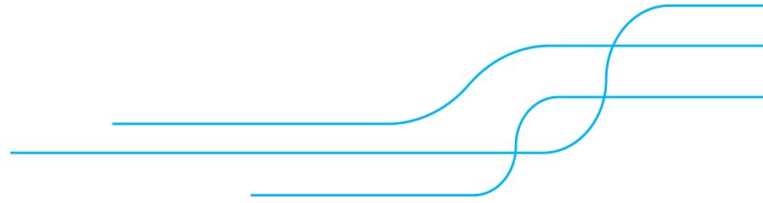
These convictions send a strong message to criminals and vandals that the war against theft and vandalism of essential infrastructure is turning the tide, and will not be tolerated.

The Criminal Matters Amendment Act, 2015 (Act No. 18 of 2015) that came into effect in June 2016 deals with any person that

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“tampers with, damages or destroys essential infrastructure.” The Act elevates the seriousness of theft and/or damage of public infrastructure.

PRASA commends the excellent work done by NPA and other law enforcement agencies in securing convictions in cable theft and essential infrastructure cases. Though the theft of rail infrastructure is still a reality, the efficiency of the justice system in dealing with this scourge is also commendable.

ENDS

Issued by PRASA



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